would avoid the necessity of reversing the current, if any, of the existing sewers, the outlets of which could be easily connected with the new sewers, and they could be readily entered and ventilated by shafts, which might also serve as overflows in case of floods.

CHARLES MATHEW.

ARCHITECTS' EDUCATION.

WITHIN the last few years the young architect's education has been considered worthy of more attention than was formerly given to it. If an architect possess not the æsthetic spirit of composition combined with chronological accuracy, but if he merely depend on his knowledge of construction and the routine business of the office and the drawing-board, he will fall short of the standard of acquirements indispensable for his success in his profession; yet how many have gone from the expiration of their articles to the close of their practice in unhappy ignorance of the artistic section of their art,—fostering the erroneous conceptions of the unprofessional through their inability to combat them. How many incongruities would have been spared if the architects who carried them out had had the power of convincing their well meaning, but mistaken patrons, of the inapplicability and sometimes absurdity of their wishes.

Although extravagancies, anachronisms, and illogical compositions, escape criticism in many instances, the gradual spread of art-knowledge through amateurs is such, that the architect will soon not dare to practice without possessing the just qualifications for his profession: even if the diploma be not insisted on, the absolute dread of censure will force him into retirement, and we shall less often see the offensive distortions formerly and at present common.

The student must acquire, by the minute examination and comparison of existing works, that power of discrimination which, founded upon judicious reading, will create and enlarge in him the true power of harmonious composition. As this cannot be acquired simply by knowledge of the mechanics and construction of a building, or by the utmost familiarity with the several operations necessary in its completion, it becomes necessary that the student, after having well grounded himself in these different qualifications, which may be regarded as the foundation upon which he is to build his succeeding knowledge, should seek the consolidation of his possessed knowledge and the creation of new ideas, in those countries where architecture has been most cultivated since the revival of art. With the experience of all this before him, the student can easily foresee the impracticability of his success unless he carefully cultivate the powers of his mind, not only in his professional reading but in general and classical literature, and also by travel extend his knowledge of the varieties of style, and remove the feelings of local prejudice which can exist as well in art as in the social system.

M.

MASONS' PROVIDENT INSTITUTION.

THE fourth annual meeting of the above institution was held on the 22nd ult., at the City of Westminster Institution, Great Smith-street, Mr. Wm. Tite, F.R.S., President, in the chair, for the purpose of receiving the annual report, and other business of an encouraging nature, showing the progressive state of the institution.

Several letters were read expressive of its utility to the trade, and giving promises of support, several provincial towns having already commenced their subscriptions. The objects of the institution were feelingly advocated by the chairman, as also by Mr. Wm. Freeman, treasurer, Mr. Thos. Piper, and Messrs. Dix and Clay.

It is intended to hold a public meeting of the trade in May next, in support of its objects, the president of the institution kindly consenting to preside. Numerous additional donations and subscriptions were announced, and the auditors' report showed a balance, exclusive of these, of 279*l.* 2*s.* 3*d.*, including 250*l.* 4*s.* 9*d.* 3 per cent. consols.

The annual votes of thanks were accorded to the officers of the institution and to the president; and the meeting separated with a conviction that every true mason should exert himself to promote the interests of the institution.

THE GREAT EASTERN METROPOLITAN CEMETERY.

PROPOSED BY THE BOARD OF HEALTH.

THE inquiries and deliberations of the Board of Health have resulted in the proposal to buy up all the metropolitan intramural graveyards or other places of burial, and even all the suburban cemeteries, under the authority of an Act of Parliament, and to shut up the whole, or at least the intramural, and plant all the grounds with appropriate trees and shrubs, for the absorption of the otherwise deleterious fluids and gases given off by the bodies of the dead. The Kensal Green Cemetery, however, they propose to enlarge into a Great Western Cemetery, with provisions for easy access by economical transit from the western district, while for the eastern, they propose the formation of a new extramural cemetery of great extent, in which they estimate that under the comprehensive and compulsory system recommended by them, nearly two-thirds of the metropolitan dead would be buried. The site of this great field of sepulture has been already selected as "singularly eligible," though not named; but the *Observer* (a pretty good authority in the present instance), *calculates* that it must be at Erith.

A special public board or "Metropolitan Interment Commission," they think, ought to be appointed (as elsewhere abroad), with the exclusive management of metropolitan funerals. Receiving houses on the banks of the river would be established, with steamers purposely fitted up to convey the dead to the new cemetery, which, as described or planned, with all the "gentle slopes and undulations" of its anciently consecrated and still sacred, silent, and solemn "abbey land," befittingly planted with trees and shrubs of dark and evergreen foliage,—its weeping willows and its gaunt and solemn poplars,—would appear to be in truth an Elysian field, which, as observed, "would not have its parallel in the whole world, and would put to shame even 'the City of the Silent' at Constantinople.'"

Under one comprehensive and simple general system of sepulture such as this, it is estimated that a great reduction in the total expense of conducting funerals would be effected.

"The present actual total charges to families for the funeral of adults," report the commissioners, "as ascertained from an examination of undertakers' bills, compared with what may be accomplished on the intended plan, is as follows:—

The cost to the gentry for each funeral of an adult is 100*l.*, the estimated cost under the proposed system of interments is 38*l.* 10*s.*, being a saving of nearly two-thirds. First-class tradesmen under the present system 50*l.*, under the proposed system 16*l.* 10*s.*, being a saving of more than two-thirds. Second-class tradesmen under the present system 29*l.* 10*s.*, under the proposed system 9*l.* 9*s.*, being a saving of more than two-thirds. Artizans under the present system 5*l.*, under the improved system 2*l.* 10*s.*, being a saving of one-half. The total annual saving upon the whole of the interments of the metropolis may be estimated in round numbers at 350,000*l.*

We regard it as an essential principle of the proposed system, that the expenses of such interment shall be comprised in one sum, fixed upon according to a series of pre-appointed and graduated scales,"—the "whole expense of each funeral to be included in the charge fixed for its class," as elsewhere explained, "and to be paid for in one sum."*

"In carrying into effect a general system of extra-mural interment for the metropolis," continues the report, "it is obvious that a staff of persons of superior information and intelligence will be required to make arrangements for funerals, to superintend the removal of the bodies, to visit the houses of the poor when death occurs in single living and sleeping rooms, to give the necessary instructions to the survivors, for their own safety," and a *multiplicity* of other duties, "besides assisting with reference to the funeral and other matters," and "directing," "superintending," and "seeing," to a host of other things. Nevertheless, "it is estimated that for the performance of these duties one chief officer of health, with eleven assistants, would suffice for the whole of the metropolis," with its thousand deaths a-week, or one, in fact, every tenth minute, day and night! There is surely some tremendous error here.

The only other extract we can afford room for relates to the immediate outlay requisite for carrying this vast and certainly most spirited, sweeping, and magnificent scheme into effect.

"For the construction of one large eastern waterside cemetery, reception houses, &c.	£250,000
For the extension of the Kensal-green cemetery, to constitute one large western cemetery	50,000
For the purchase of the whole of the existing metropolitan cemeteries and other burial grounds	400,000
	£700,000
This sum, borrowed on the security of the dues, say at 5 per cent. interest, would be an annual charge of	£35,000
The estimated establishment charges on cemeteries, inclusive of the clergy, funeral rites, and officers of health, and compensation for loss of fees, would be about	77,000
Total annual amount of expense of cemeteries	£112,000

On Wednesday night last, a meeting of the medical practitioners of the west-end was held at Dr. H. Bennett's, Cambridge-square, Hyde-park, to petition Parliament for the immediate and total abolition of intramural sepulture, and especially for the closure of St. George's burial-ground, Hanover-square. Dr. Chowne was called to the chair. Drs. Goolden, Tilt, Douglas, Powell, Messrs. G. A. Walker, Webber, &c., were present. Various resolutions were passed, including one recognising the services of Mr. Walker, but we have not space for particulars.

NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

PLANS of a new training school for mistresses, proposed to be erected at Hockerhill, Bishop's Stortford, for the diocese of Rochester, have been prepared by Mr. Joseph Clarke, architect. The design is in the Tudor style, and the building is to accommodate sixty pupils in training.——The Oxford city authorities are to supply the proposed baths and washhouses with water gratis, and the gas company have also most liberally offered to light the establishment, free of all charge. This is indeed an example worthy of general imitation.——Another memorial of the late Queen Dowager is to be put up in the form of stained glass.—namely, in the five chancel windows of St. Michael's Church, Coventry, at a cost of about 2,000*l.* —— A stained-glass window, presented by Messrs. Chance Brothers, to the church at the Church of England Cemetery, Birmingham, has been set up in the chancel of that edifice. By the liberality of these gentlemen two side-windows of stained-glass of mosaic work have likewise been added.—— Two new Roman Catholic churches are to be erected, one at Studley, and the other at Coughton.——The shareholders of the Whitehaven Gas Company, appear to be finding their affairs, since they reduced their price to 4*s.*, to be getting steadily into a more and more flourishing condition. In allusion to their highly satisfactory state at last half-yearly meeting, the *Carlisle Journal* reports, that "the extensions rendered necessary to meet the increasing demand for gas have been completed, at a cost of upwards of 2,000*l.*, paid out of the profits of the works; and in addition to the payment of so large an amount [from an original capital of 8,000*l.* only], there was a balance upon the books to

* Although we would be the last to start objections for the mere purpose of throwing them like stones in the way of any train of speedily realisable and comprehensive suggestions likely to bring the system of intramural burial forthwith to its terminus, we must here remark, that to insist on the whole expense of a funeral being paid for in one sum by the great mass of the industrious classes would be to insist on an utter impracticability. We know it to be one of the few merits which must be allowed to the present order of undertakers, in their dealings with those whose livelihood is supported by the receipt of weekly wages, that in such cases the expense of funerals is paid for in small weekly instalments, and these even often not called for until the pressure of other heavy outlays incumbent on the deathbeds of relatives has been recovered from, or materially relieved. In fact, the industrious classes are frequently obliged to forego the offer of more moderate charges for ready money, or payments in one sum, in order to obtain respectable burial for their relatives with a practicable mode of payment, however otherwise oppressive. As to undertakers themselves, by the way, would they be compensated like the clergy and others for their loss of fees and business? Or what is to be done with them, as a class, till "the commission" bury them in their own coffins.—If it be really meant that the whole cost and conduction of funerals is to be taken out of their hands, all at once, by a Parliamentary Act, rendering all burials illegal besides those conducted by the public commission?

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